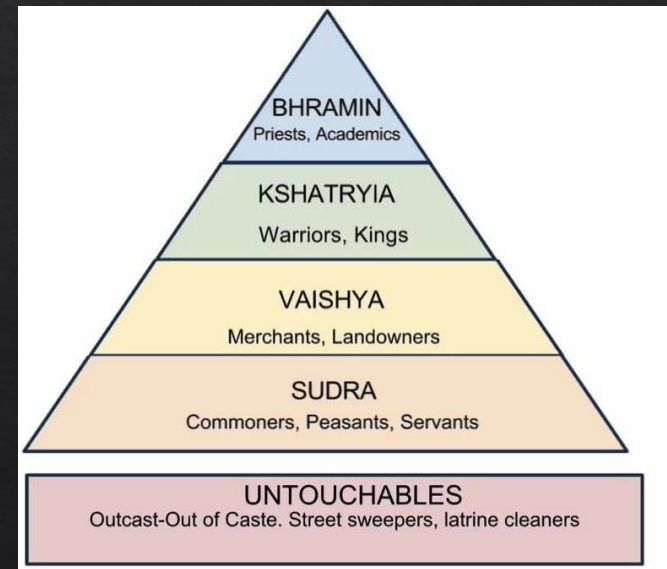


Origins of Hinduism

- ◇ As Aryan society grew it became more complex and divided.
- ◇ This division was mostly organized by occupations.
There were four main groups or *varnas*

◇ **It was divided into four castes, or classes, of people.**

- ◇ **Brahmins – priests, highest class**
- ◇ **Kshatriyas – soldiers and nobles**
- ◇ **Vaishyas – farmers, merchants, craftspeople**
- ◇ **Sudras – servants and laborers**

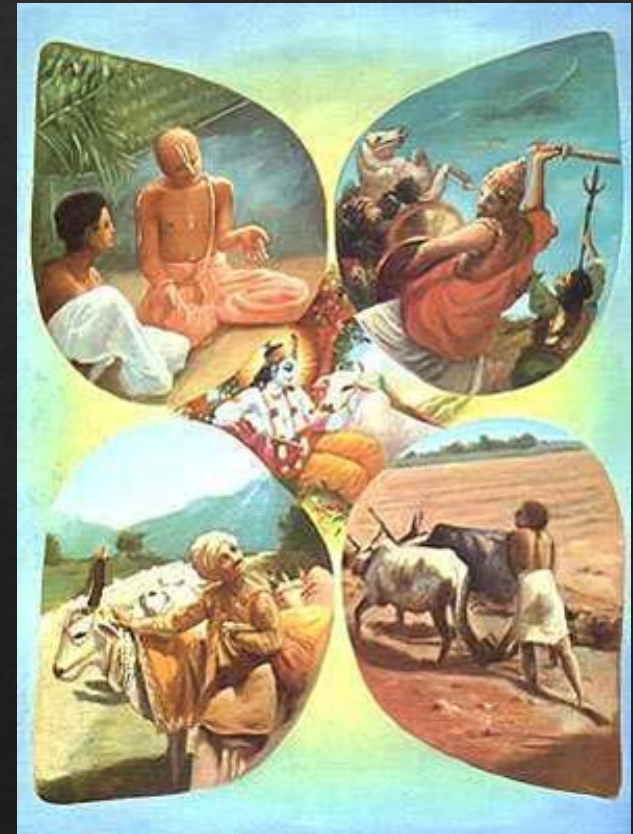


- ◇ A 5th caste, sometimes called the untouchables, consisted of people outside all other castes, who did the dirtiest of jobs.

Origins of Hinduism



- ◇ The *Varnas* led to the **Caste System**.
- ◇ The **Caste System** divided society based on a person's birth, wealth or occupation.
- ◇ To keep the classes (groups) distinct they Aryans developed *sutras* (guides) which listed the rules for the caste system.
- ◇ Strict rules developed about how these groups could interact with each other.



Origins of Hinduism

- ◆ The Aryans religion was based on the *Vedas* which is the sacred text of Hinduism



- ◆ The *Vedas* describes divisions or *castes* of Hindu society.
- ◆ There are four *Vedas* and they contain sacred hymns and poems.

- ◆ The Aryan Brahmins wrote later texts about the Vedas they are the *Vedic texts*.
- ◆ The final group of *Vedic texts* were the *Upanishads* which were written about 600 BCE.

Origins of Hinduism

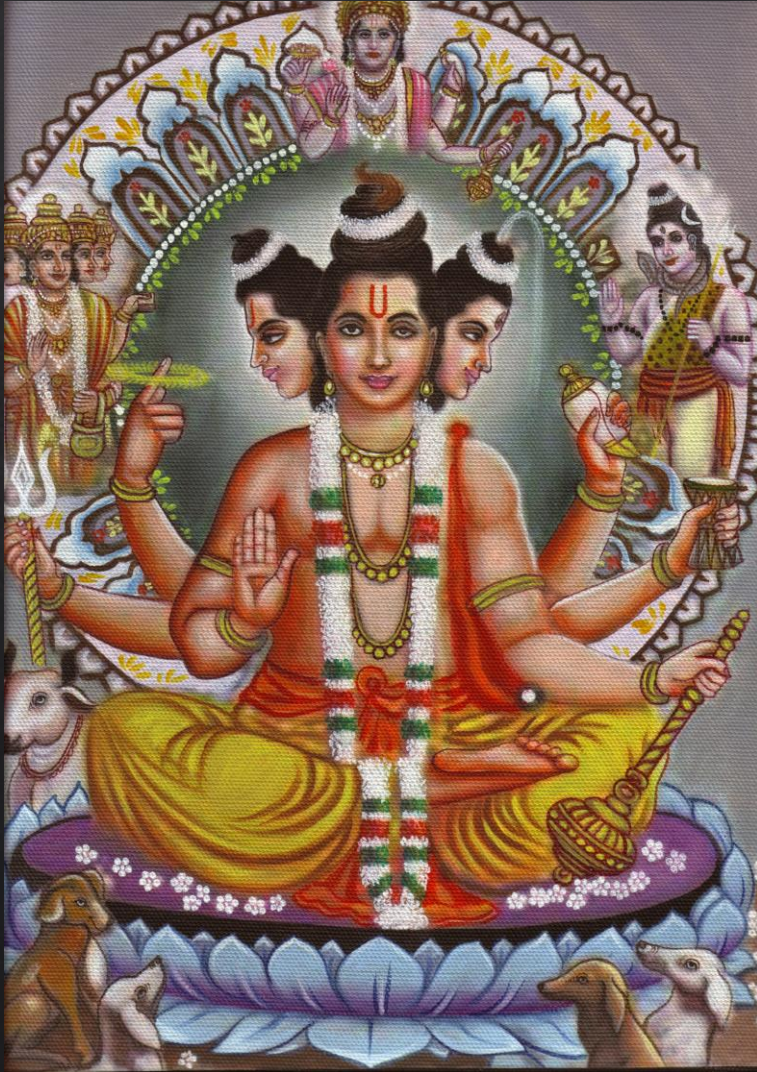


Hinduism is one of the oldest religions in the world. It was not started by a particular person, instead it evolved as the beliefs of several different groups combined.

◆ Aryan beliefs combined with Indus Valley beliefs and the beliefs brought to India through cultural diffusion to form Hinduism around 4000 BCE



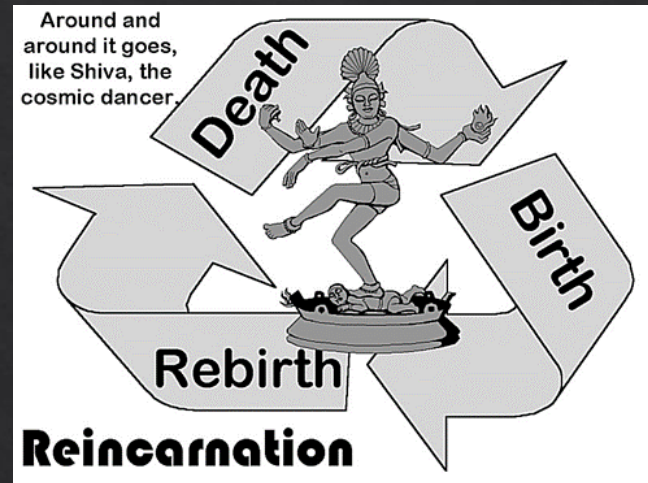
Hinduism



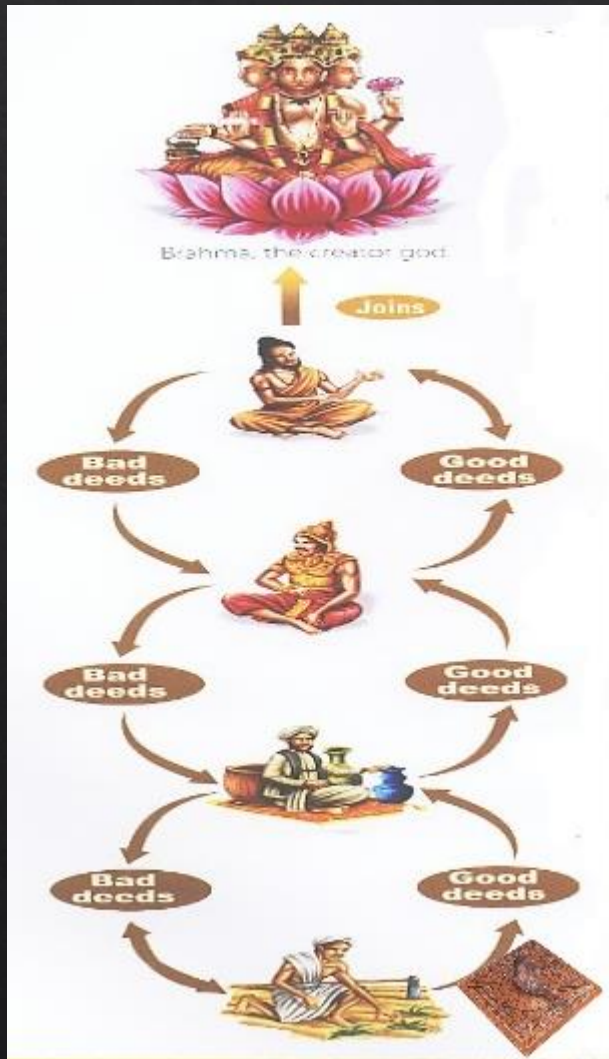
- ◇ The early Hindus believed in one main god, Brahman (or Brahma) and many lesser gods, who are thought of as different faces of Brahman.
- ◇ Hindus worship thousands of deities (gods) which would make them polytheistic
 - ◇ BUT they believe all of these gods are a part of one god Brahman (which would make them monotheistic).

Hinduism

- ◇ Hindus believe that souls are born and reborn many times into new physical forms in order before they are reunited with Brahman the universal spirit
- ◇ Hindus believe in *Karma*- this is the idea that if you do good you will receive good things and if you do bad you will be affected negatively.
- ◇ Accepting your place in life with out complaint is called obeying your *Dharma*, this leads to good Karma.
- ◇ Eventually your cycles of reincarnation will lead you to *Moksha* or a salvation from life's worries.



Hinduism



- ❖ Hindus believe that people were born into a certain caste because of their karma from their past life. People remained in a caste for their entire life and were not to associate with people of other castes.
- ❖ In order to move up the caste system, a person must have good dharma and karma. If a person lives a good life, their reincarnation will be to a higher caste.
- ❖ If a person has bad behavior or bad karma, they could be punished with bad reincarnation.
- ❖ The untouchable caste has been officially abolished. Modern Hindus do not adhere strictly to the caste system.

Checkpoint #3

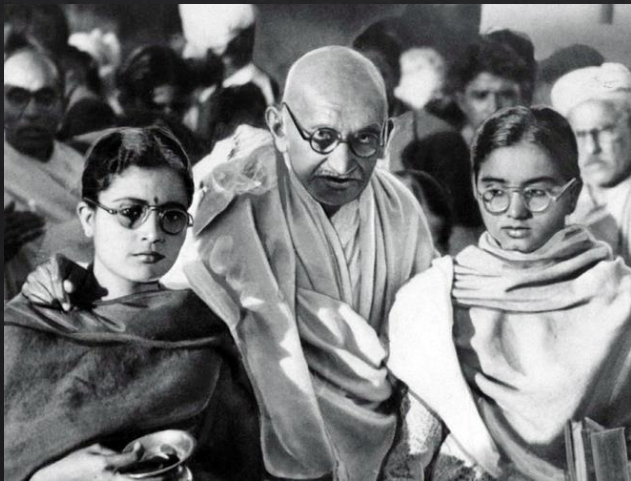


◇ True or False:

- ◇ Reincarnation is determined by karma.
- ◇ Hinduism was created when two cultures, the Indus Valley people and the Aryans, intermixed.
- ◇ Dharma is the highest caste.
- ◇ The caste system keeps people in strict social classes.
- ◇ The cycle of birth and death is untouchable.

Hinduism

- ◇ Women were traditionally not considered equal to men. They have continued to gain more rights over the centuries.

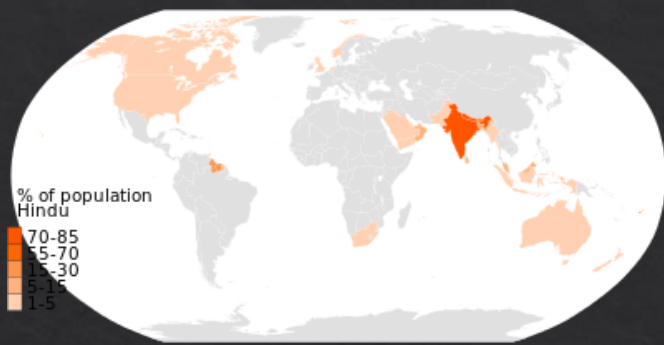


- ◇ Gandhi had a great influence in removing many of the restrictions on Hindu women.

Jainism

- ◇ Religion based on the teachings of Mahavira
- ◇ They practice Ahimsa, or nonviolence
- ◇ They are Vegetarians
- ◇ Jains live by four principles:
 1. Injure no life
 2. Tell the truth
 3. Do not steal
 4. Own no property





Interesting Hinduism Facts

- ◇ Hindus respect all animals and many are vegetarians.
- ◇ The most important animal is the cow, which they are not allowed to kill.
- ◇ Hindus consider themselves to be monotheistic.
- ◇ There are close to 1 billion Hindus in the world.
- ◇ Hinduism is the most popular religion in India.



15 min James
Linegar/airplane boy



4 min James
Linegar/airplane boy

Origins of Buddhism



◆ In the late 500s BC, **Buddhism was founded by a young man named Siddhartha Gautama.**



◆ He was born a wealthy Hindu prince and lived in a fancy palace with a wife and son in northern India. His father wanted him to become a great king.



◆ One day he saw sickness, aging, and death. He went on the journey to find the causes of human suffering.



Origins of Buddhism

- ◆ He wandered as a monk for six years practicing self-denial. He fasted (or went without food).
- ◆ He practiced meditation or the focusing of his mind on spiritual ideas
- ◆ Finally, while meditating under a Bodhi tree, he became aware of the answers which he called the Four Noble Truths and the Eightfold Path
- ◆ This became known as his religious awakening, or Enlightenment.



Origins of Buddhism



Teachings

- ◆ People started following him and calling him the Buddha.
- ◆ Since Buddha was born a Hindu, he also believed in karma and reincarnation.

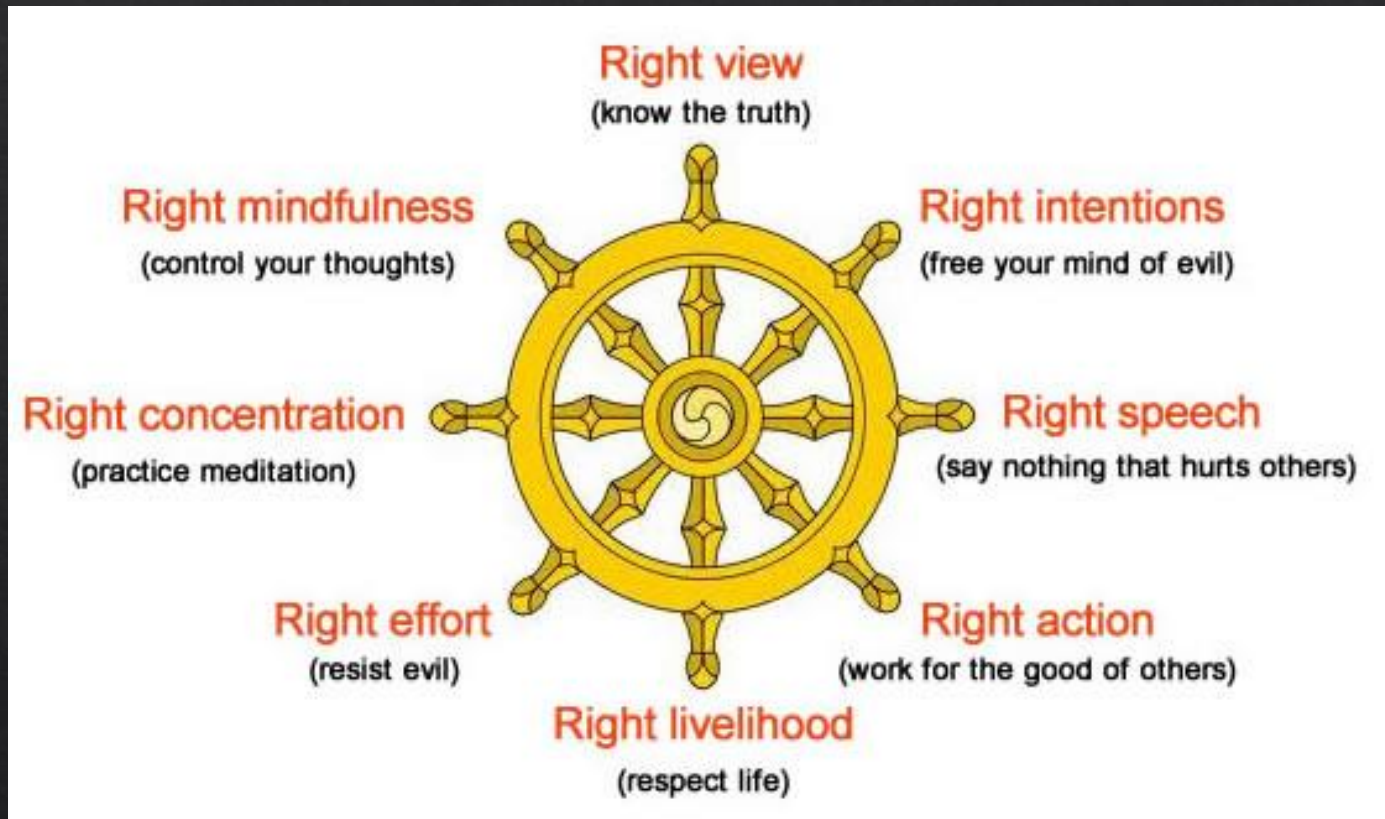
Buddhism

The Four Noble Truths



Buddhism

The Eight Fold Path

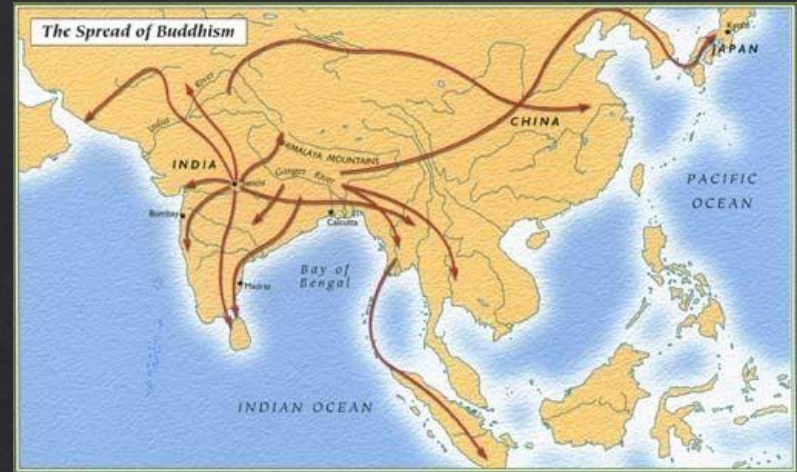


- ◇ A person who completes the Eightfold Path is said to have reached freedom from all suffering, which Buddhists call *Nirvana*.

Buddhism

Challenging Hinduism

- ◇ Buddhists do not believe in the caste system, but do believe that good deeds might result in the return as a wealthy or important person in the next life.
- ◇ Buddha challenged the authority of the Brahmins (Hindu Priests)



Buddhism spreads:

- ◇ Buddha's followers spread his ideas after his death
- ◇ Buddha's teachings are put into text called the *Tripitaka*
- ◇ A powerful Indian King, Asoka, converts to Buddhism and establishes Buddhist schools and send Missionaries to other kingdoms



Checkpoint #6

◇ Which of the following is false:

1. Buddha is the god of Buddhism
2. Nirvana will occur when a person reaches Enlightenment
3. By following the Eightfold path, a person can end human suffering.

◇ Which of the following is NOT a similarity between Hinduism and Buddhism?

1. Karma
2. Reincarnation
3. India
4. Meditation
5. Caste system

Interesting Facts of Buddhism

- ◇ Buddha is not thought of as a god, but a person who is enlightened.
- ◇ Any person can become Buddha by becoming enlightened.
- ◇ Statues of Buddha can be found in all sizes, from a small statue to sit on a shelf to a 70-foot high stone Buddha in India.



Achievements of Ancient India

◆ Hinduism and Buddhism

◆ Elaborate temples

◆ Sanskrit – Writing System

◆ Metalwork (using Iron)

◆ Numerals used today

◆ Medicine - First vaccines, Surgery

◆ Astronomy

